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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

20999 7590 04/22/2003

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG  
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.  
NEW YORK, NY 10151

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

PEYTON, TAMMARA R

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] CLASS-SUBCLASS

2182 710-001000

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2003

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/604,632      | 06/27/2000  | Hirokazu Nagasawa    | 450100-02579        | 3984             |

TITLE OF INVENTION: SIGNAL INPUT AND OUTPUT APPARATUS

| APPLN. TYPE    | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE | PUBLICATION FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE   |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | NO           | \$1300    | \$0             | \$1300           | 07/22/2003 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.  
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

## PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Box ISSUE FEE**

**Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

**Fax (703)746-4000**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 4 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Legibly mark-up with any corrections or use Block 1)  
20999      7590      04/22/2003

**FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG  
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.  
NEW YORK, NY 10151**

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

**Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**  
I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Box Issue Fee address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

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| EXAMINER          | ART UNIT | CLASS-SUBCLASS |
|-------------------|----------|----------------|
| PEYTON, TAMMARA R | 2182     | 710-001000     |

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

"Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)**

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent)       individual     corporation or other private group entity     government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

Issue Fee

A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.

Publication Fee

Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

The Commissioner is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

Commissioner for Patents is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.

(Authorized Signature)

(Date)

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMIT THIS FORM WITH FEE(S)



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| 20999   | 7590        | 04/22/2003           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG<br>745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.<br>NEW YORK, NY 10151 |             |                      | PEYTON, TAMMARA R   |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 2182                |                  |
| DATE MAILED: 04/22/2003   |             |                      |                     |                  |

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**Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)**  
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The patent term adjustment to date is 564 days. If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the term adjustment will be 564 days.

If a continued prosecution application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines patent term adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. (<http://pair.uspto.gov>)

Any questions regarding the patent term extension or adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703)305-1383.



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| 20999   | 7590        | 04/22/2003           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| FROMMERM LAWRENCE & HAUG<br>745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.<br>NEW YORK, NY 10151<br>UNITED STATES |             |                      | PEYTON, TAMMARA R   |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 2182                |                  |
| DATE MAILED: 04/22/2003   |             |                      |                     |                  |

**Notice of Fee Increase on January 1, 2003**

If a reply to a "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" is filed in the Office on or after January 1, 2003, then the amount due will be higher than that set forth in the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" since there will be an increase in fees effective on January 1, 2003. See Revision of Patent and Trademark Fees for Fiscal Year 2003; Final Rule, 67 Fed. Reg. 70847, 70849 (November 27, 2002).

The current fee schedule is accessible from: <http://www.uspto.gov/main/howtofees.htm>.

If the issue fee paid is the amount shown on the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due," but not the correct amount in view of the fee increase, a "Notice to Pay Balance of Issue Fee" will be mailed to applicant. In order to avoid processing delays associated with mailing of a "Notice to Pay Balance of Issue Fee," if the response to the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) due form is to be filed on or after January 1, 2003 (or mailed with a certificate of mailing on or after January 1, 2003), the issue fee paid should be the fee that is required at the time the fee is paid. If the issue fee was previously paid, and the response to the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" includes a request to apply a previously-paid issue fee to the issue fee now due, then the difference between the issue fee amount at the time the response is filed and the previously paid issue fee should be paid. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 1308.01 (Eighth Edition, August 2001).

Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

|                               |                  |                 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | Application No.  | Applicant(s)    |
|                               | 09/604,632       | NAGASAWA ET AL. |
|                               | Examiner         | Art Unit        |
|                               | Tammara R Peyton | 2182            |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to Amendment A filed on 04/14/03, telephone conversation with Applicant's Attomery on 04/18.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3.  The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

5.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - (a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

8.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.

- (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
  - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b)  including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
- (c)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.   |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.              | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment         |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |

#9/B

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

3. Pursuant to MPEP 606.01, the title has been changed to read:

--SIGNAL INPUT AND OUTPUT APPARATUS THAT DISCRIMINATES  
BETWEEN PLURALITY OF DIFFERENT DEVICES EACH ISSUING UNIQUE  
CONTROL SIGNALS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMULTANEOUSLY THROUGH SINGLE  
TRANSMISSION PATH --

4. A call was placed to Applicant's Attorney Mr. Gordon Kessler, Reg. No. 38,511, on 04/18/03 regarding the possibility of further amending claims 1 and 6 to overcome the prior art of record. The following changes to claims 1 and 6 have been approved by Examiner and agreed upon by Mr. Gordon Kessler.

CLAIM 1

(Twice Amended) A signal input and output apparatus for issuing a control signal from a signal processor to the outside by a controller through a transmission path, and controlling said signal processor by said controller on the basis of a control signal entered from the outside, comprising:

a single transmission path along which a plurality of different types of apparatuses are connected, each of said apparatuses issuing a different type of control signal [;]substantially simultaneously:

signal discrimination changeover means for discriminating the type of control signal entered through the single transmission path, generating a discrimination signal, supplying said discrimination signal into said controller, and changing over the control of said signal processor to said controller on the basis of the discrimination signal, wherein

input and output of plural control signals of different types are processed through said single transmission path, said single transmission path supporting two-way communication of said plural control signals.

CLAIM 6

(Twice Amended) A signal input and output method, being a signal input and output method for issuing a control signal from a signal processor to the outside by a controller through a transmission path, and controlling said signal processor by said

controller on the basis of a control signal entered from the outside, comprising the steps of:

providing a single transmission path along which a plurality of different types of apparatuses are connected, each of said apparatuses issuing a different type of control signal [;]substantially simultaneously;

discriminating the type of control signal entered through the single transmission path,

supplying a discrimination signal in accordance with said discriminated type of control signal into said controller,

changing over the control of said signal processor to said controller on the basis of the discrimination signal, and

inputting and outputting of plural control signals of different types and processing these control signals through the single transmission path, said single transmission path supporting two-way communication of said plural control signals.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach or suggest individually or in combination the limitation of a signal input and output apparatus for issuing a control signal from a signal processor to the outside by a controller through a transmission path, and controlling said signal processor by said controller on the basis of a control signal entered from the outside, comprising a single transmission path along which a plurality

of different types of apparatuses are connected, each of said apparatuses issuing a different type of control signal substantially simultaneously; signal discrimination changeover means for discriminating the type of control signal entered through the single transmission path, generating a discrimination signal, supplying said discrimination signal into said controller, and changing over the control of said signal processor to said controller on the basis of the discrimination signal, wherein input and output of plural control signals of different types are processed through said single transmission path, said single transmission path supporting two-way communication of said plural control signals.

*Drawings*

6. New corrected drawings are required in this application because the case has been allowed. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsperson outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tammara Peyton whose telephone number is (703) 306-5508. The examiner can normally be reached between 6:30 - 4:00 from Monday to Thursday, (I am off every first Friday), and 6:30-3:00 every second Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin, can be reached on (703) 308-3301. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3718. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Mailed responses to this action should be sent to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231.

Faxes for Official/formal communications intended for entry should be sent to:

(703) 746-7238, After Final (703) 746-7239

or, for informal or draft communications, to:

Application/Control Number: 09/604,632  
Art Unit: 2182

Page 7

(703) 746-7240 (please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

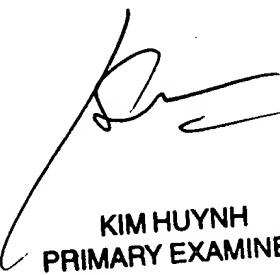
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor

(Receptionist).

Tammara Peyton

April 18, 2003

  
KIM HUYNH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

4/18/03